

# ***ANGLER GUIDE***

## **Platte River**

Channel catfish and flathead catfish are common in the Platte River and its larger tributaries. Both species can be found in the deeper holes with flatheads preferring areas with heavy woody cover. Channel catfish can be caught on a variety of natural and prepared baits, while flatheads are caught using primarily live bait (goldfish, sunfish, creek chubs, small carp, or even worms). Blue catfish are occasionally caught in the lower portion of the Platte River, but are more common near the confluence with the Missouri River. Some anglers prefer to wade or float the Platte and 102 Rivers, and they fish the deep holes with cane poles using worms or minnows as bait. If nothing bites within a few minutes, they move on to the next hole. Carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, and gar are common throughout the basin, and they are caught on a variety of baits.

## **Mozingo Lake**

Mozingo Lake, a 1,000-acre lake three miles east of Maryville, is quite popular in northwest Missouri. It provides some good angling opportunities, especially for bluegill. Several of the bluegill exceed 8 inches in length, and there should be some that exceed 10 inches. There is a high density of largemouth bass at Mozingo Lake, but most are still less than 15 inches long. It is not uncommon to catch over 20 bass in a few hours of fishing. Some anglers find success for larger bass near the 15 submerged brush piles along the old creek channel throughout the lake. These are generally in 20-25 feet of water, so try vertical jigging. Fishing for channel catfish and bullheads is also good, with channel catfish averaging 2-pounds and bullheads averaging 1-pound in size. Crappie numbers are low at Mozingo, but most over 9 inches long. Most of the walleye exceed the 18 inch minimum length limit, but are low in number. Most walleye caught at Mozingo are by anglers fishing for bass with crankbaits. The City of Maryville continues to improve facilities at this area. New campground facilities and picnic pavillions are being built, and the lake already has several boat ramps, boat docks (including disabled-user), and a disabled-user accessible covered fishing dock.

## **Smithville Lake**

Smithville Lake, covering 7,190 acres, has many timbered coves and wind swept points. Crappie and largemouth bass are the most sought after species at Smithville, but channel, blue and flathead catfish offer great fishing opportunities. Walleye are also available to add an unusual component to the catch. Recently white bass have become a larger part of the fishery as well. A high percentage of 9 inch and larger crappie are present in the reservoir. Weather conditions can make crappie fishing finicky, but if you fish away from the areas that get fished a lot (bridges and marinas) your catch of larger crappie should be good. Bass continue to improve. Efforts continue to establish aquatic vegetation in Smithville Lake. Volunteers recently planted a dump truck full of coontail along the shoreline throughout the lake, and more is planned for the future. Catfishing at Smithville can be outstanding. For fast action, fish for channel catfish at night in the upper ends of the lake arms. Trotlines also work well for channel cats. Blue catfish are best caught fishing with jugs in the main lake. Bait with live shad and watch out for boat traffic. It's best to wait until late evening to try this method. Flatheads are becoming more common in the

lake, and their numbers are increasing. Fish live bait in the timbered, rocky areas near creek channels. An exciting quarry at Smithville is the growing white bass population. These fish are fun to chase in the fall with crankbaits or topwater lures as the white bass come to the surface chasing shad. Wait for a school to begin feeding and rush to the spot and cast rapidly. Smithville Lake offers a variety of fishing opportunities for everyone from the "worm\_dunker" to the high\_tech bass angler. There's even a special dock for the disabled\_user at the Crows Creek access.